Lighting - Lighting setups

H2GY1K

LECTURE SUMMARY

Covered in this lecture:

How to set up your lights

- Choose the type of lights you want to use and then shut off all the lights that you don't need
- The video format you want to create will dictate what lighting equipment you'll need
- The more people in the video, the more lights you need
- When you're lighting a subject, the standard is to have 3 lights:
  - key light - it fills 80% of your subject from a 45 degree angle
  - fill light - it fills the other side of the subject to soften the shadows
  - back/hair light - it's positioned behind the subject, creating a separation between the subject and the background
- **For a simpler setup, you can use flat lighting, which means using just 2 lights, one for each side**
- If you have two subjects, there are 2 options:
  - use 4 lights, 2 for each subject
  - use 2 lights, one for each side, but they have to be larger to cover both subjects equally

- Background lighting is used to brighten up the background, because bright scenes create a happier mood

- Other pieces of equipment you will need for lighting:

- **#1 Light stands**

  - they're used to hold the lights
  - aim for medium priced ones so they last longer and they can hold larger lights

- **#2 Clamps**

  - they're used to hang lights wherever you need them

- **#3 Soft boxes**

  - they're used when you have a small light but want to expand it - large sources of light create softer shadows
  - they're a great way to use cheaper lights and enhance them

- **#4 Seamless paper**

  - it's used for the background of a video with one subject talking to the camera
  - it's usually accompanied by a back light that lightens the center of the background

- Accessory lights:

- **#1 Ring light**

  - it's a circular light in the center of which you put the camera
  - it's very popular on YouTube
  - cons: it's not good for the eyes

- **#2 Back light**

  - it's used to create a separation between the subject and the background

- **#3 Fresnel light**

  - it’s like a spotlight that’s pointing to the background

- It’s much easier to use the right lighting than trying to fix things afterwards, in editing

- When the video doesn’t turn out great because of the lighting, the best thing to do is reshoot